

The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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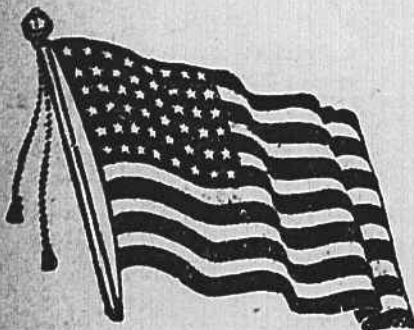
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THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 24, 1919.



THE AMERICAN'S CREED.

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

SIGNIFICANT CIRCUMSTANCE.

OBVIOUSLY it would not do to question the absolute good faith of the Big Four of the Peace conference, but there is one phase of the deliberations at Paris which to say the least arouses healthy curiosity.

For instance, when it became necessary to put a quietus on the Japanese aspiration for a clause in the League of Nations covenant providing specifically for racial equality it was Australia which took the initiative, and not the United States, with which country one element of Japanese have been trying to pick a fight for some time and in which country there is a formidable anti-Japanese movement.

Likewise when in order to prevent the new nation of Southern Slavs from being strangled at its birth it became necessary to put a check upon the aspirations of the Italians was the United States and not one of the governments at signed the Pact of London which took Italy into the war that stepped into the breach.

This is more than merely suggestive of the diplomatic procedure of the days before the great war, and which the recent negotiations were inferentially pledged to avoid, but it does have the merit of getting difficult matters done with the least possible amount of friction. Doubtless it also serves to hurry up the deliberations.

SCIENCE IS A GREAT COMFORT.

A SCIENTIST recently declared that anything which could possibly occur in the history of worlds and their inhabitants has already occurred. He based this assertion on his conception of the infinity of eternity. So many millions of years have passed into the discard, he said, that there's been plenty of time for the development of all possible forms of life, intellect, mechanics, science, etc., ages and ages before we were born. In other words it's another way of saying there's nothing new under the sun.

It is hard for any mind, not scientific, to believe that way back some hundreds of millions of years ago on some other worlds, there were other human beings who had telephones, automobiles, canned soups and all the other marvels of our modern times. It is hard to believe that such worlds blew up into star dust, along with all their inhabitants and inventions, and that nature then set to work doing the same thing over again—creating another race of human beings who could again make gooseberry pies, barbed wire and liver pills.

Of course when you look at it from the scientist's viewpoint he has some foundation for his statement. The infinity of eternity is a tremendously long time and, with thou-

sands of billions of years behind us and with only a few million years required to bring the human race to its present high plane, it does seem plausible to think that anything which might happen has already happened. There sure has been time enough for anything.

What a comfort, too, all this is to us! What a pleasing sensation to realize that when you get a nasty crook in your neck gazing upward at the transcontinental airplane sailing over your town with the mail that you are simply repeating something that someone else did somewhere a half dozen billion years or so ago! It makes your neck feel so very much better, doesn't it? What a comfort science is, to be sure!

PRINTER'S INK PROPHYLACTIC.

SOMEWHERE, sometime, someone made the sage observation that the judicial use of printers' ink might prove as useful as medicine in the prevention of communicable diseases.

If not statistically accurate, it is certainly worthy of comment that publicity directed toward education, has been a prime factor and most useful ally in bettering living conditions from a health standpoint. It has been priceless in sanitation education, for it first taught the public the necessity of drainage and sewerage; that flies and mosquitoes were the chief carriers of several ever-present communicable diseases, and it has taught the public, or a great portion of it, to insist on pure foods.

At first newspapers hesitated to touch the subject of sanitation, pest houses, flies and mosquitoes, because the editor feared it was not news. Experiments proved there was no bigger element of news anywhere than something that concerned every one of his readers intimately—the public health.

There can no longer be room for doubt that every reader of a newspaper and every good citizen is vitally interested in prolonging his chance for living a greater number of years.

That is the reason today newspapers have taken up the eradication of venereal diseases and are cooperating with the United States Public Health Service in a nationwide educational campaign, urging the adoption of proper control legislation, the closing of houses of prostitution, the segregation and compulsory treatment of the diseased until they are no longer a menace to the public.

It is a new discussion for the press and public, for until the drafting of millions for the army revealed the terrific prevalence of gonorrhea and syphilis in civil life the twin evils were secrets to everyone except the medical profession, and, because statistics were not available, physicians had only a vague idea of the high prevalence.

The army experience was startling. It convinced President Wilson, his cabinet and Congress that false modesty could no longer shield one of the greatest dangers to America's health, for it was realized then, as now, that ignorance and secrecy were largely responsible for the condition, that exposure and publicity would bring reform.

This is actually happening. A majority of the states are treating venereal diseases quite as openly and frankly as an epidemic of smallpox, and quite as effectively. And that is the only way. The public must realize that gonorrhea and syphilis are names for communicable diseases instead of crimes, and that the fight for their eradication is not a private affair of the Public Health Service, but concerns every American vitally.

Governor Cornwell's appointment of former State Senator Scott C. Lowe to be judge of the new Marion county Criminal court will give general satisfaction. The act creating this court is so drawn that its value as a unit in the machinery for the administration of justice in Marion county will depend largely upon the capacity of the judges of the Circuit and Criminal courts, to cooperate during what might be termed the formative period of the new court. Mr. Lowe in addition to being a good lawyer and a good citizen is admirably fitted for that role.

Italy drove a hard bargain with the Entente before she agreed to enter the war and she is making a bold fight to make that bargain hold, but this time the trading is not one sided. If they actually do bolt the Peace conference the Italians run the risk of losing much more than they could hope to gain.

Postmaster General Burleson, who has been under fire for months because of the shortcomings of the postal service and his own high handed methods, has begun to bleed. Yesterday he issued a statement in which he charged that he is the victim of a conspiracy to ruin him because he has refused to help bring about a repeal of the zone postal law. That is nonsense. Burleson is a victim of his own stupidity. If he had attended to the legitimate business of his department instead of seizing the wire systems and setting up an espionage of the mails that would do credit to Russia he would not now be in hot water.

The Public Service commission has directed the Hope Natural Gas company and the Pittsburgh and West Virginia Gas company to appear and explain why they have not complied with the commission's order to furnish gas to the companies supplying Morgantown and Fairmont. That order probably will smoke the gas companies into the open, and it is to be hoped that the Public Service commission will not permit the gas companies to delay the issue unnecessarily. This matter must be cleared up so that the homes and factories will have all the gas they need next winter.

Italy may run away from the Peace conference if she wants to, but she is going to find that President Wilson put the case in such a way that running away will not do for an answer.

what is the ideal height. I will now tell you the sad night I seen Yesterday.

A Man and a Woman got often the Fairview car, and while Paw Paw district raises some tall specimens of the race, this one was nowise extra high. He started up the street with his wife (I don't know that she was his wife, but I just took it for granted that she was) and when he got to Clyde Holt's he didn't see the awning and the result was that he got his hat knocked off.

He was a timid kind of a fellow and this embarrassed him so (that he dropped a package of eggs while trying to get the hat again. This got him so flustered that when he got the hat he started bolting up the Street and within ten feet his hat was knocked off again.

God knows what would have happened to the poor Man if he had happened to Try to walk under the awning in front of A. G. Martin's or Lee and Hardisty's, or some more that I bumped into this Morning.

Yours,

"SIXFOOTER."

Editorial Comment on Current Subjects

BURLESON.

From The New York World.

For many years the office of Postmaster General has been the political power-house of the Administration.

Mr. Taft's Postmaster General was Frank H. Hitchcock, who had been his campaign manager and chairman of the Republican National committee. When Mr. Roosevelt became President he inherited Charles Emory Smith from the McKinley Administration, but as a candidate for the Republican nomination in 1904 Mr. Roosevelt perceived the desirability of constructing a political organization of his own. In 1902 he made Henry C. Payne of Wisconsin his Postmaster General. Mr. Payne being one of the most adroit and experienced political managers in the country. After his election in 1904 Mr. Roosevelt appointed George B. Cortelyou Postmaster General. Mr. Cortelyou having been the Chairman of the Republican National committee in the 1904 campaign.

When Mr. Wilson was elected President he had had little experience in national politics. He had dealt with principles and ideas rather than with politicians and organizations. His advisers urged him to follow precedent and name a Postmaster General who could attend to the political affairs of the Administration, and as bad luck would have it, Albert Sidney Burleson of Texas was selected.

Mr. Burleson had had a great deal of political experience. He had served eight terms in Congress from the Austin district, and Mr. Wilson's advisers insisted that inasmuch as Mr. Burleson possessed exceptional knowledge of the ways of Congress he would prove invaluable as a link between the executive and legislative departments of the government. The prospectus was alluring, but the goods were never delivered.

Looking back the record of the last six years, the Burleson appointment, on the whole, has proved the most unfortunate that the President ever made—unfortunate for Mr. Wilson himself, unfortunate for his Administration, unfortunate for the Democratic party and unfortunate for the country. Mr. Bryan was a sorry misfit as Secretary of State, but Mr. Bryan's selection was inevitable, and in naming him Mr. Wilson followed the political traditions of the country. Moreover, Mr. Bryan's opportunities for mischief were narrowly circumscribed, because Mr. Wilson, in reality, was his own Secretary of State and decided all questions of policy. There have been no such restraints upon Mr. Burleson. He has roamed at large, been allowed to administer his office in his own amazing way, and the consequences are appalling.

Instead of being a link between the President and Congress, he has been a source of continuing contention. Disliked and distrusted at the Capitol, he has made the President's relations with Congress more difficult. As a

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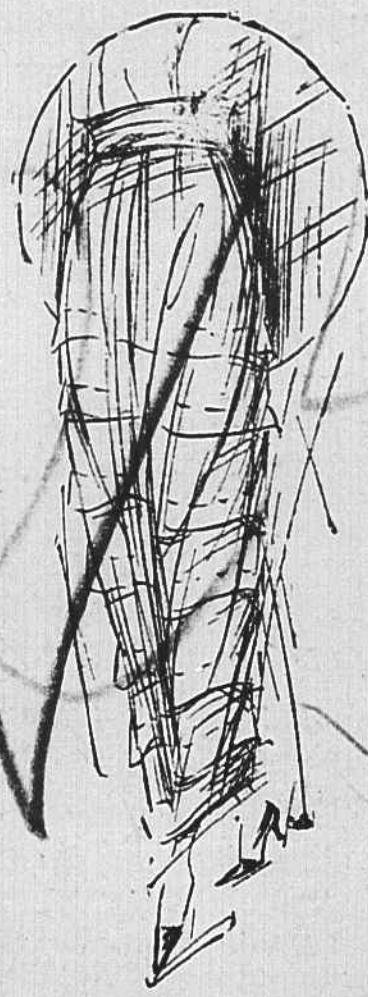
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Truthful Advertising Courtneys' Store Dependable Merchandise

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Lockey, Bert B., Columbus, Ga.

Died from Accident and Other Causes.
Privates—
Gittings, Silas L., Benjamin Gittings, R. F. D. 3, Cameron, W. Va.
Conaway, William F., Mrs. Lydia Johns, Marshall Street, McMechen, W. Va.



Motor Cars

Standard of the World

Engineering & Equipment Co.

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OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE (BY CONDO)



RUFF STUFF

Teams have notified the French that seven newspaper men will accompany their delegation to Versailles.

Wonder if old Karl Rosner will be in that bunch of scribblers?

Member Karl?

He's the guy who used to follow old Bill Hohensolund around and write about the wild flowers he picked and the wise sayings he dropped.

It enabled him to be close to royalty, and it must have been a nice job according to Tent ideas.

But under the new dispensation Karl probably is washing rollers and getting cussed by the boss of the mailing room.

Lampin a dispatch from New York that Internal Revenue Collectors have been instructed to unseal the locks on brewery pipe lines which have remained closed since December 1 last.

Who can give a quiet tip on the exact

location of the nearest brewery pipe line?

Is it possible that among all the pipe lines that run through this county one of them belongs to a brewery?

If it is you will know what is up if you see a dry looking individual equipped with a cold chisel and a sprinkling can wending his way over the hills intently looking for pipe lines and tapping those he finds in a speculative manner.

Premier Orlando says he was surprised that a document so vital as Wilson's statement on the Adriatic question should be made public through the medium of a newspaper.

These Latin politicians will learn a good many tricks if they will keep their eyes on Woody and the Welshman who is running the British empire.

When it comes to handling the propaganda stuff the Bolsheviks have nothing on that pair.

Arnold Mason has gone to Detroit and Mt. Clemens to spend several weeks. Mr. Mason recently had a severe attack of influenza from which he has not recovered.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIRE DEPARTMENT THANKED.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., April 23.—[Editor The West Virginian]—Fairmont has just reason to be proud of the splendid fire department. As was shown in the quick response to all and efficient work done at the Easter Sunday fire at 626 Fairmont avenue. In less than five minutes after the alarm was turned in the department was on the ground and had the fire under control in a very few minutes though it took quite a while to extinguish it entirely. We, the occupants of the house, are very grateful and take this means of thanking the Fire Department for their splendid work.

WHY?

FAIRMONT, April 24.—[Editor The West Virginian]—Why is it that they are in Fairmont? I pause but near answering chorus. I refer to the fact that the awnings which grace the front of many of our leading merchants, et cetera, are much lower than what an Ordinance evolved by the Learned and Wise City fathers stip-